



8 a communications device for connecting the customer  
9 premises equipment to a local network, the local network being  
10 connected to the data network via a network interconnection  
11 device; and  
12 a temporary configuration server residing in the  
13 communications device, the temporary configuration server being  
14 operable to respond to configuration messages from the customer  
15 premises equipment before the network connection is capable of  
16 connecting the customer premises equipment to the data network.

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28. (New) An improved communication system comprising a customer  
premises equipment connected to a data network via a network connection, the  
customer premises equipment being operable to communicate with the data  
network when configured with a client network address, the customer premises  
equipment being operable to issue configuration messages to a configuration  
server connected to the data network to retrieve the client network address from  
the configuration server, the improvement comprising:

8 a communications device for connecting the customer  
9 premises equipment to a local network, the local network being  
10 connected to the data network via a network interconnection  
11 device; and  
12 a temporary configuration server residing in the network  
13 interconnection device, the temporary configuration server being  
14 operable to respond to configuration messages from the customer  
15 premises equipment before the network connection is capable of  
16 connecting the customer premises equipment to the data network.

29. (New) An improved communication system comprising a customer  
premises equipment connected to a data network via a network connection, the

3 customer premises equipment being operable to communicate with the data  
4 network when configured with a client network address, the customer premises  
5 equipment being operable to issue configuration messages to a configuration  
6 server connected to the data network to retrieve the client network address from  
7 the configuration server, the improvement comprising:

8 a communications device for connecting the customer  
9 premises equipment to a local network, the local network being  
10 connected to the data network via a network interconnection device  
11 comprising a cable modem connected to a cable network and a  
12 cable termination system connected to the data network, the local  
13 network including a network of the type selected from the group  
14 consisting of: ethernet and token ring; and

15 a temporary configuration server to respond to configuration  
16 messages from the customer premises equipment before the  
17 network connection is capable of connecting the customer  
18 premises equipment to the data network.

1 30. (New) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 29  
2 wherein the temporary configuration server includes a plurality of temporary  
3 network addresses with which to respond to configuration messages from a  
4 plurality of customer premises equipment.

1 31. (New) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration protocol  
2 server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a network  
3 connection, the method comprising the steps of:  
4 issuing a request for a customer premises equipment  
5 network address from the customer premises equipment to the  
6 configuration protocol server via the the network connection;

7 the network connection determining whether a connection  
8 can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not,  
9 responding to the customer premises equipment by sending a  
10 temporary network address to the customer premises equipment;  
11 sending a lease time for the customer premises equipment  
12 network address limiting the time of validity of the temporary  
13 network address;  
14 issuing a request to renew the temporary network address  
15 when the lease time expires; and  
16 the network connection determining whether a connection  
17 can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not,  
18 responding to the customer premises equipment by sending an  
19 acknowledge message.

1 32. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising the steps of:  
2 when the network connection determines that the connection  
3 can be made to the configuration protocol, the network connection  
4 sending a NACK message declining to acknowledge the request to  
5 renew the temporary network address;  
6 the customer premises equipment receiving the NACK  
7 message and sending a request for the customer premises  
8 equipment network address; and  
9 the network connection communicating the request for the  
10 customer premises equipment network address to the configuration  
11 protocol server.